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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re U.S. Patent Application of)
AZUMA et al.)
Application Number: To be assigned)
Filed: Concurrently Herewith)
For: STORAGE DEVICE AND STORAGE SYSTEM)
Attorney Docket No. TSUT.0103)**

**Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97, this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in the above-identified National Stage U.S. patent application. A listing of documents to be published on the face of any patent granted from this application is submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449. Any other documents or information submitted for consideration by the Examiner are listed in this paper. A copy of each foreign patent, or each publication or portion thereof listed or herein identified, is submitted herewith.

CERTIFICATION

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted with the initial filing of the application. Accordingly, no fee is due or payable at this time.

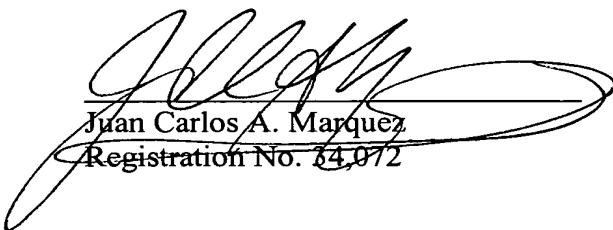
The Examiner is requested to acknowledge consideration of the information provided in this paper in accordance with prescribed procedures.

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